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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 11, 1978

Dear Dick:

I would like to set forth the US negotiation position with Chou Pei-yuan and his delegation, based on all of our discussions and the interagency review. As you know, this program and the others discussed in Peking in July are based on the premise that it is in our interest to contribute to China's efforts to strengthen her agricultural and civil industrial capabilities. It is consistent with the view that a strong and stable China is in the US interest. The President strongly supports our role in providing a range of education and manpower training programs for Chinese in the United States.

We want these programs to go well. Opportunities for Americans to study in China and for Chinese to study in the US could influence US-China relationships for years to come. We want these programs to be as rewarding as possible for all those involved.

As we discussed this morning, we will make clear to Professor Chou the US government's concern that Chinese students in the US are able to benefit fully from all that our academic institutions have to offer. We will discuss the importance of their participants being both adequately prepared for work in the United States and carefully placed in programs that are most appropriate according to individual backgrounds and interests. We will recommend but not insist that, as one mechanism for achieving their objectives, they consider using an organization which would provide such services as testing and evaluation, language and remedial training, as well as placement services. Should they wish to use such an organization, the US government is prepared to help in identifying or establishing it. This service organization for Chinese students would be complementary to programs arranged directly with American institutions by the Chinese. It would by no means be a funnel for all Chinese coming to the United States.

During our July visit in Peking, we emphasized both to Mr. Fang Yi and to Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping that Americans wanted to go to China for a range of educational opportunities in all fields, particularly in Chinese language, and other areas of social sciences and humanistic studies. Both Mr. Fang and Vice Premier Teng said Americans would be welcomed, and you should thus assume that this has been agreed to in Peking. During these negotiations with Professor Chou, you should describe in

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some detail the nature of American interests. Those include educational training and research opportunities in all fields. Our requests should be tempered by recognition of the many limitations on the Chinese side, but we should make clear that we want to work together with them to develop a range of mutually beneficial relationships, recognizing the divergencies of interests and conditions for each side. You should inform Professor Chou that the Committee on Scholarly Communication with the PRC has been asked to operate a national program for selection of Americans to go to China. Here again we assume that in addition they may receive Americans in China as a result of their direct negotiations with American institutions.

The third aspect of the US presentation is the Joint Committee concept. This Committee, with both public and private membership on the US side, would be responsible for assessing program development, discussing new ideas for program development, and determining overall program size and design. It is through this Committee that we will maintain continuity of relationships with those in Peking responsible both for training Chinese abroad, as well as for arranging programs for Americans in China. You will be chairing this Committee on the American side.

I believe that the above outlined approach is a reasonable one that will respond to Chinese needs and our own interests. It is important to present it persuasively to Professor Chou. I believe it is consistent with the views of the American academic community whose opinions we have sought in formulating this approach, and is responsive to the interests of the government. We should seek an exchange of letters confirming our understandings from the negotiations.

I suggest that you should act in a manner that indicates that the good offices and support of the US government is essential if the exchanges in both directions are to succeed.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Press  
Chairman  
Policy Review Committee  
People's Republic of China S&T

Dr. Richard Atkinson  
Director  
National Science Foundation  
Washington, DC

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